



Prince Michael and Princess Stephanie



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Chapter 1 by Madelyn Mueth

Once upon a time there, lived Prince Michael and Princess Stephanie, whose father's name was King Edmund. King Edmund was a very likable person, but one of his characteristics got in the way: pride. You can probably imagine how many enemies he must have had. Edmund had brown hair and green eyes. His children, thankfully, weren't showing any signs of pride.

The prince and princess were born at the same time; although, the prince came first. The princess was kidnapped before her father could see her. Her mother could see her plainly, but the kidnappers brainwashed her to believe her daughter was dead. She was heartbroken to think she lost her daughter. Then, King Edmund came in and didn't believe they had lost their daughter. He searched the kingdom ten times over, but, Stephanie's kidnappers were at least two hours ahead of King Edmund. The kidnappers brought Princess Stephanie to a hide-out in the mountains. Many times, they escaped the king's men and were not brought to justice. When Stephanie was two years old, they dropped her off at a place called Shepherd Orphanage.

Mrs. Linda Lou, the supervisor heard a sound at the front doorsteps of the orphanage. She came rushing to the entrance. Opening the door, she saw a young two year-old girl with blond hair and green eyes awaiting her attention. Linda said, "Oh, mercy! What do I have here?" She

scooped up the two- year old, and said, "I think I will name you Arianna, since there isn't an identification tag with your stuff." For the next ten years, Mrs. Linda Lou took extremely good

Care of Arianna.

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When Arianna was twelve years old, Mrs. Linda Lou told Arianna ought to learn how to defend herself with a rapier (sword). She was a bit of a snob, but when she was sixteen, having put several lessons of sword fighting behind her, she became an excellent

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swordswoman. Arianna decided to leave the orphanage, despite Mrs. Lou's many protests. Arianna started out in the evening to find a clearing to spend the night.

The next morning, having found a clearing, she woke up to find herself miles away from a grizzly bear. Arianna slowly drew her sword, while watching the bear coming closer, dropped her sword clumsily. Just when she gave up all hope, a young man about sixteen stepped out of the woods, saw her distress and shot the grizzly bear through the heart with an arrow. Falling to her knees, Arianna's wavering voice asked, "Who are you?" He replied, "My name is Prince Michael." Scared she might offend him, backing away, she ran into the woods, the prince following after her. Stumbling, Arianna broke her arm, the Prince came towards her, gathering twigs and tearing his purple shirt into shreds to set her arm. Seeing this, Arianna, who was used to men not caring about her, cried out, "Why are you being so nice to me?" The Prince replied to her query, "I've lost my sister, Princess Stephanie, and I hope, I'll find her someday, to do so I need to be kind to every maiden in the kingdom."

Arianna, faint from blood loss, fell fast asleep. Meanwhile, Prince Michael set her arm and lifted her into his strong, muscular arms, looking for a special birthmark his mother had, reluctantly, told him would be on his sister. He saw the star on Arianna's neck like the star that his mother told him about. Overjoyed, he carried her all the way back to the castle. Waking up, Arianna found herself in the king's palace. She was very baffled. Coming into her room, the king explained to her that she was the long lost Princess Stephanie. From then on, she lived in the palace, and Prince Michael was glad to have his sister back. They would have many adventures together.

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